

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, dated April 21, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior art rejections set forth by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103. Applicant submits that the references of record whether considered alone or in combination fail to either teach or suggest Applicant's presently claimed invention.

Applicant has modified independent claims 1, 5 and 11 to more clearly define the invention. All the claims now recite a harness attachment on a bottom side of said pack wherein said harness attachment is secured to a harness which is independent from said pet accessory. The present invention is far superior to the present dog pack and coat systems which incorporate their own limited harness elements such as dorsal and ventral straps. Such existing systems and cited prior art references exhibit several limitations. For example, due to the size and the bulk of existing packs, it is difficult to attach them to a pet. This is especially important when dealing with energetic pets that are difficult to control. Additionally, such systems do not work with or cannot be combined with currently available harness and leash systems. Finally, existing systems incorporate harness elements which are either inadequate to secure the pet accessory or require multiple elements to ensure the same. There is simply no teaching or suggestion whatsoever concerning the use of a set of pet interchangeable accessories which simply and securely attach to currently available harnesses in the prior art.

Applicant has added new claims 18 and 19 which also incorporate the limitations set forth in claims 1, 5, and 11. In addition, independent claim 18 recites a leash attachment mechanism on a top side to directly attach a leash to the pet accessory itself. On the other hand, claim 19 recites an opening on the top side of the accessory to expose a leash

attachment mechanism of the harness itself. Support for these limitations may be found in figures 2, 3, and 8 as well as in the corresponding detailed description in the specification.

The references of record fail to teach or suggest these advances in the art. Kerrigan, U.S. Patent No. 6,571,745, is directed to a dog pack harness comprising a base member with pockets, a ventral strap, a slidable collar attachment, and a dorsal strap which is used to secure the collar attachment to the base member. See Col. 2, lines 30-68 and Col. 3, lines 26-28. Kerrigan is representative of existing packs which incorporate harness systems and exhibit attempts to secure the pack to a pet. See Col. 1, lines 40-51. On the other hand, the present invention incorporates a harness attachment which securely attaches the pack to any independent commercially available harness system. Current harness systems are designed such that they may be easily attached to a pet. The present invention advantageously provides pet accessories which may be simply and quickly attached and secured to such harnesses. Moreover, the present invention is directed to accessories which may be quickly interchanged as desired. The Kerrigan reference neither teaches or suggests the present invention.

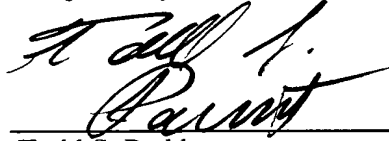
Caditz, U.S. Patent No. 5,996,537, describes a bulky and complex canine coat for protecting canines from harmful objects and various weather related factors. See generally the Abstract. In Caditz, the coat comprises a belly portion with a forward chest end and sufficient amount of material for protecting chest and lower neck, and a mid and rear abdominal end shape to cover a dog's abdomen. See Column 2, lines 44-48. Three securing straps are permanently attached to the forward end of a first side portion of the cover. See Col. 2, lines 50-55. The straps attach to the longitudinal center of the cover by a permanently attached strip. See Column 2, lines 65-68 and Col. 3, lines 1-3. Consequently, Caditz is also

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directed to a cover which incorporates harness elements. However, advantageously Caditz utilizes a belly portion and several strap assemblies to secure the cover. Nonetheless, this is significantly different than the pet accessories which may be simply attached to existing harnesses as in the present invention. For example, the Caditz cover requires that a user must individually slide each of the dog's front legs through a hole in the belly portion and thereafter individually attach and secure the several strap assemblies to secure the cover to the canine. This is simply different than the present invention which describe interchangeable accessories which may be quickly secured and removed from any pet. The references of record fail to teach or suggest the present invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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